

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A controlling device for commanding operating functions of a plurality of different appliances, comprising:

a function key activatable to cause a transmission of a command to one of the plurality of different appliances; and

programming for causing wherein the function key is to be associated with a one of a plurality of colors as a function of a that is representative of the one of the plurality of different appliances selected by the programming to receive the command when transmitted in response to activation of the function key.

2. (Currently Amended) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, comprising a device mode key activatable to place the controlling device into a mode for primarily commanding operating functions of the selected one of the plurality of different appliances, wherein the device mode key is associated with the one of the plurality of colors that is representative of the one of the plurality of different appliances.

3. (Currently Amended) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, wherein the function key is caused to be illuminated in the one of the plurality of colors.

4. (Currently Amended) The controlling device as recited in claim 3, comprising an LED associated with the function key, the LED being illuminable in at least the one of the plurality of colors.

5. (Cancel)

6. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, wherein the function key is a displayed soft key.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, comprising an EL display having the function key which is illuminable in the one of the plurality of colors.

10. (Currently Amended) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of colors is user-selectable.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, wherein the function key is lockable to the selected one of the plurality of different appliances across different device operating modes of the controlling device.

13. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 1, wherein the controlling device accepts input that functions to designate the command to be transmitted in response to activation of the function key.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for using color to indicate a relationship between one of a plurality of appliances and a function key of a controlling device, comprising:

in response to activation of a device mode button of the controlling device, assigning to the a function key an intended target appliance selected from the plurality of appliances such that activation of the function key will cause a transmission of a command to the intended target appliance; and

causing a one of a plurality of associating a colors which is representative of the intended target appliance as assigned to the function key via activation of the device mode button to be associated with the function key ~~which is representative of the intended target appliance.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the ~~controlling device comprises a device mode key activatable to place the controlling device into a mode for primarily commanding operating functions of the intended target appliance and the method comprises associating~~ is associated with the one of the plurality of colors ~~with the device mode key.~~

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, comprising illuminating the function key in the one of the plurality of colors.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, comprising illuminating the function key using an LED.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~14~~ 19, comprising displaying an area visually linked to the function key using the one of the plurality of colors.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, comprising accepting user input assigning the one of the plurality of colors as an indicator for ~~to~~ the intended target device.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the one of the plurality of colors is predefined.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, comprising accepting user input that functions to lock the function key across different device operating modes of the controlling device.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, comprising accepting user input that functions to cause the function key to display the one of the plurality of colors.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A controlling device for commanding operating functions of a plurality of different appliances, comprising:

a function key activatable to cause a transmission of a command to an intended target appliance selected from the plurality of different appliances; and

programming for causing wherein one of a plurality of different visual cues to be is associated with the function key as a function of which of a plurality of different appliances is selected by the programming as the intended target appliance.

29. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 28, comprising a device mode key activatable to place the controlling device into a mode for primarily commanding operating functions of the intended target appliance and wherein the one of a plurality of different visual cues is also associated with the device mode key.

30. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 28; wherein the plurality of different visual cues is selected from a group consisting of at least one of shapes, colors, patterns, brightnesses, icons, and text tags.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for using a visual cue to indicate a relationship between one of a plurality of appliances and a function key of a controlling device, comprising:

in response to activation of a device mode button of the controlling device, assigning to the a function key an intended target appliance selected from the plurality of appliances such that activation of the function key will cause a transmission of a command to the intended target appliance; and

causing a associating one of a plurality of different visual cues to be associated with the function key, the associated assigned one of the plurality of different visual cues being

representative of the intended target appliance as assigned to the function key via activation of the device mode button.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the ~~controlling device comprises a device mode key activatable to place the controlling device into a mode for primarily commanding operating functions of the intended target appliance and the method comprises associating~~ is associated with the one of the plurality of different visual cues ~~with the device mode key.~~

33. (Original) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the plurality of different visual cues is selected from a group consisting of at least one of shapes, colors, patterns, brightnesses, icons, and text tags.

34. (Currently Amended) A controlling device for commanding operating functions of a plurality of different appliances, comprising:

a function key activatable to cause a transmission of a command to an intended target appliance selected from the plurality of different appliances; and

programming for causing ~~wherein~~ one of a plurality of different audio cues to be ~~is~~ associated with the function key as a function of which of a plurality of different appliances is selected by the programming as the intended target appliance.

35. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 34, wherein the different audio cues comprise audio signals having different frequencies.

36. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 34, wherein the different audio cues

comprise audio signals with an emitted tone that repeats in different numbers.

37. (Original) The controlling device as recited in claim 34, wherein the different audio cues comprise audio signals which have different sequences of tones.

38. (Original) A method for using cues to indicate a plurality of appliances, comprising:
 associating with each of the plurality of appliances a unique cue;
 presenting the unique cue associated with each of the plurality of appliances when
allowing a user to setup a recipient appliance to receive input from one of the plurality of
appliances; and
 associating the unique cue with a function key of a controlling device to represent the
one of the plurality of appliances as an intended target for a transmission to be issued from
the controlling device in response to activation of the function key.

39. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein the recipient appliance transmits
data representative of the unique cue and associated appliance to the controlling device.

40. (Original) The method as recited in claim 39, wherein the controlling device
automatically associates the cue to the function key in response to receipt of the data.

41. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein the controlling device comprises a
device mode key activatable to place the controlling device into a mode for primarily
commanding operating functions of the one of the plurality of appliances and the method
comprises associating the cue with the device mode key.

42. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38, wherein the cue is selected from a group consisting of at least one of sounds, shapes, colors, patterns, brightnesses, icons, and text tags.

43. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38, comprising providing a predetermined association between appliances and cues at a time of manufacture of the recipient appliance.

44. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38, comprising accepting user input into the recipient device for providing an association between appliances and cues.